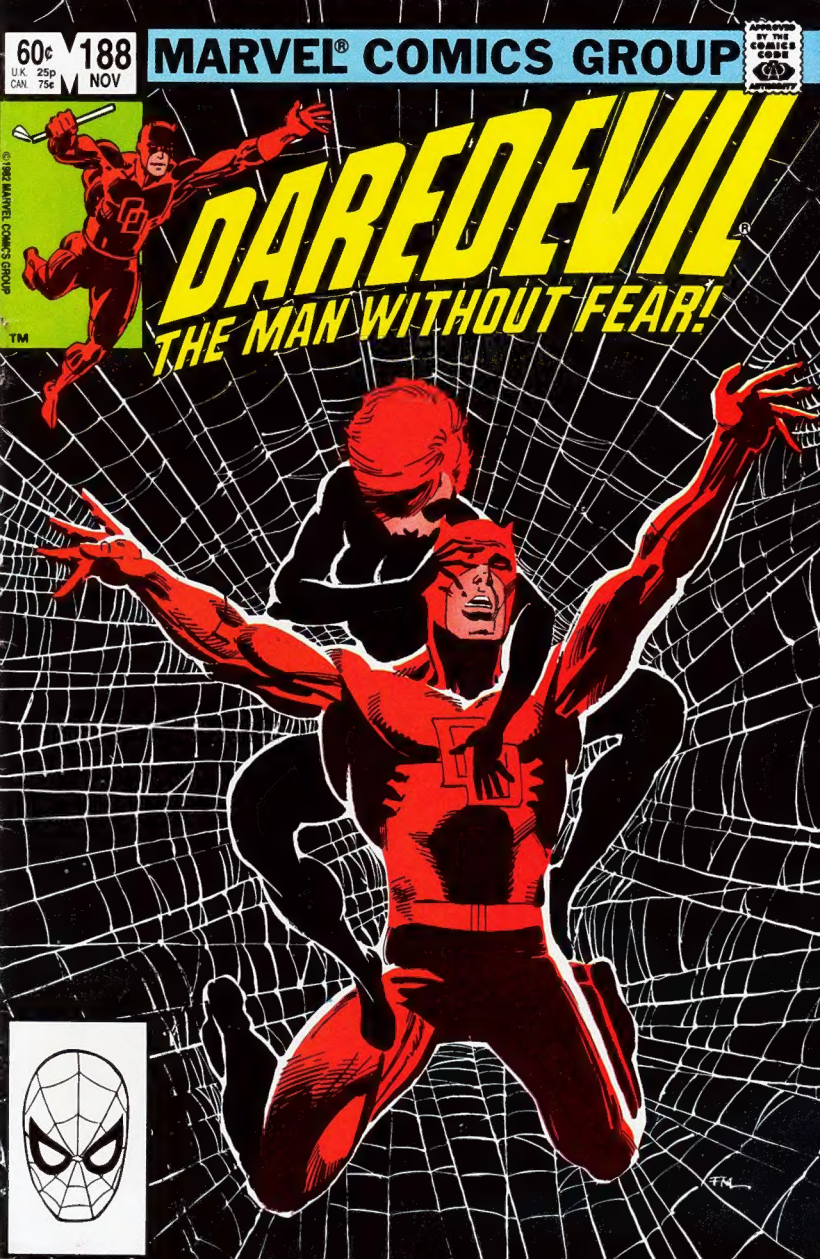
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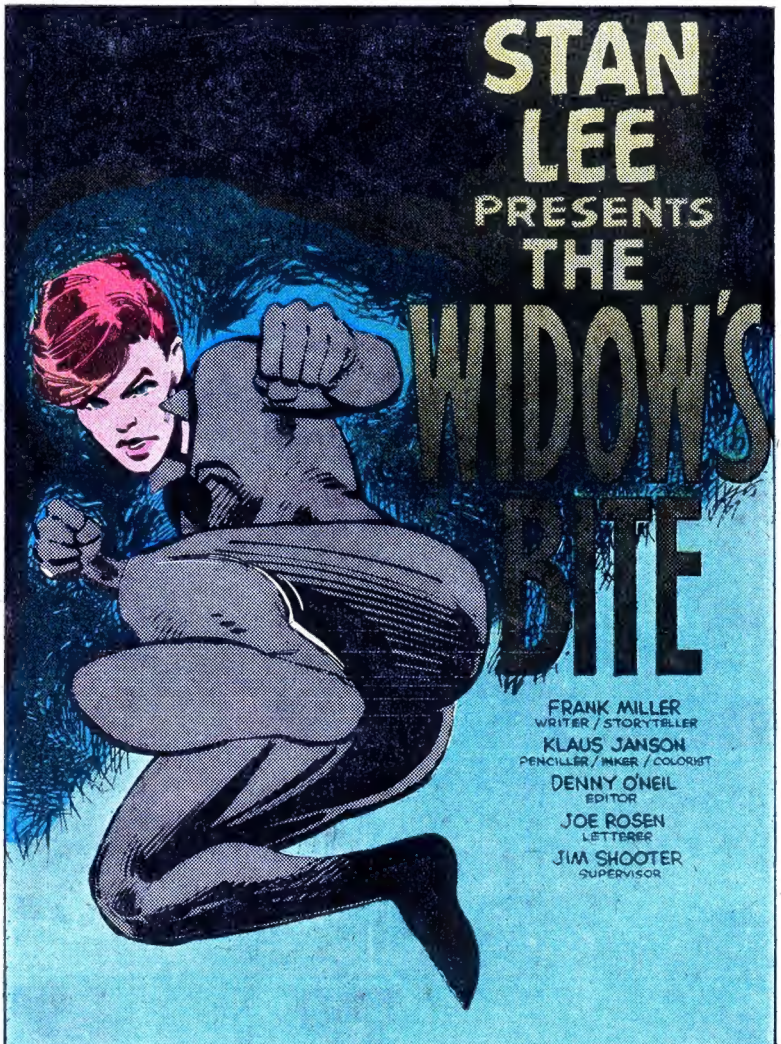

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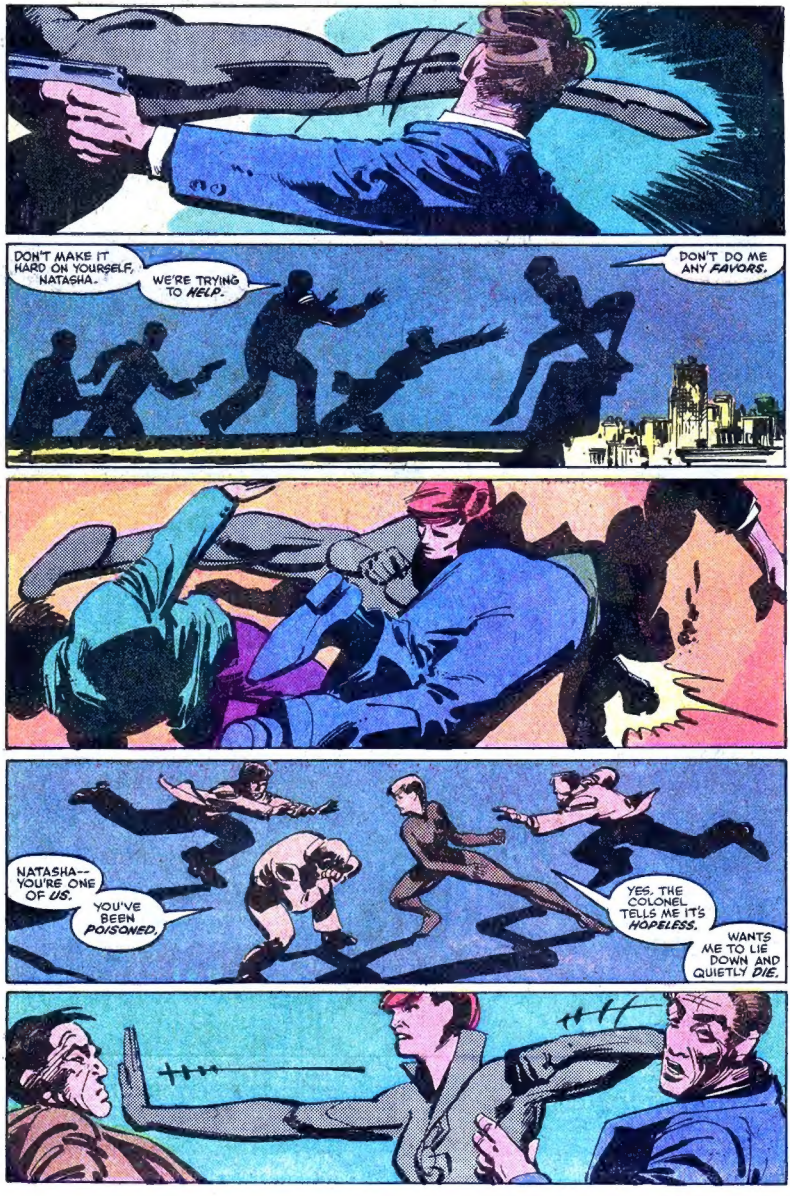
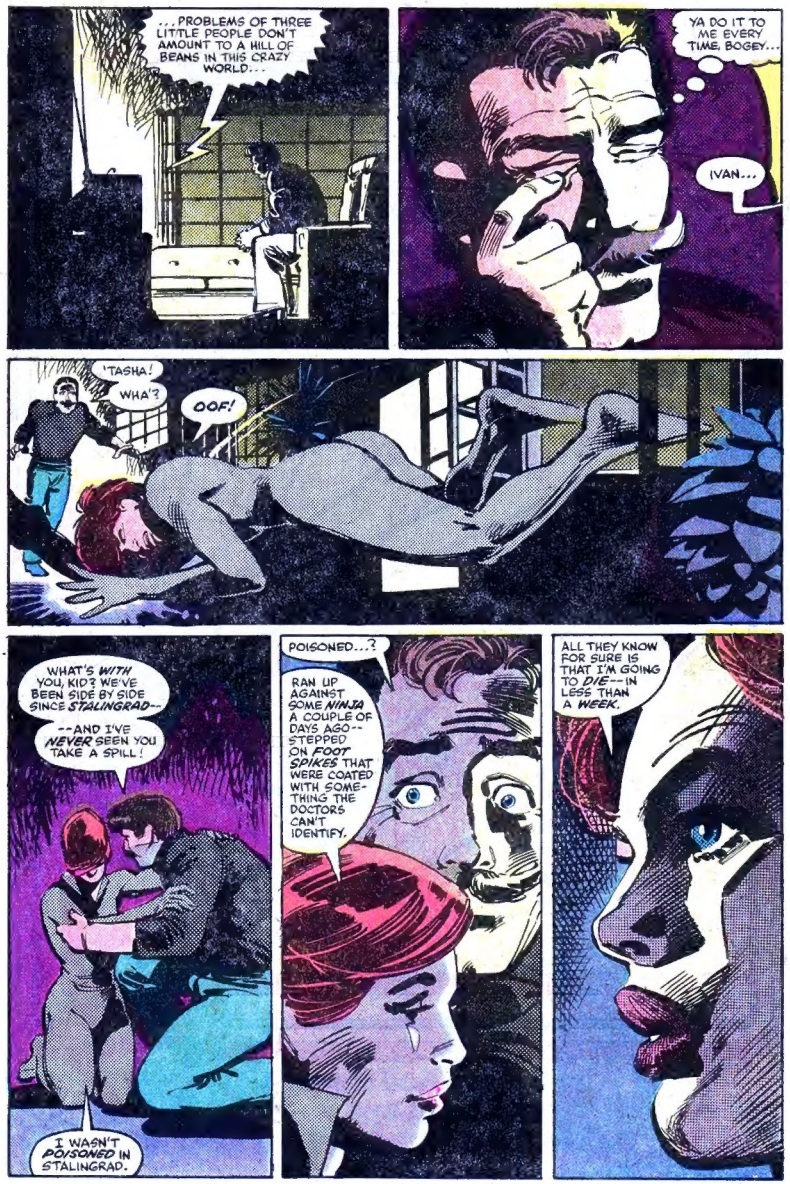
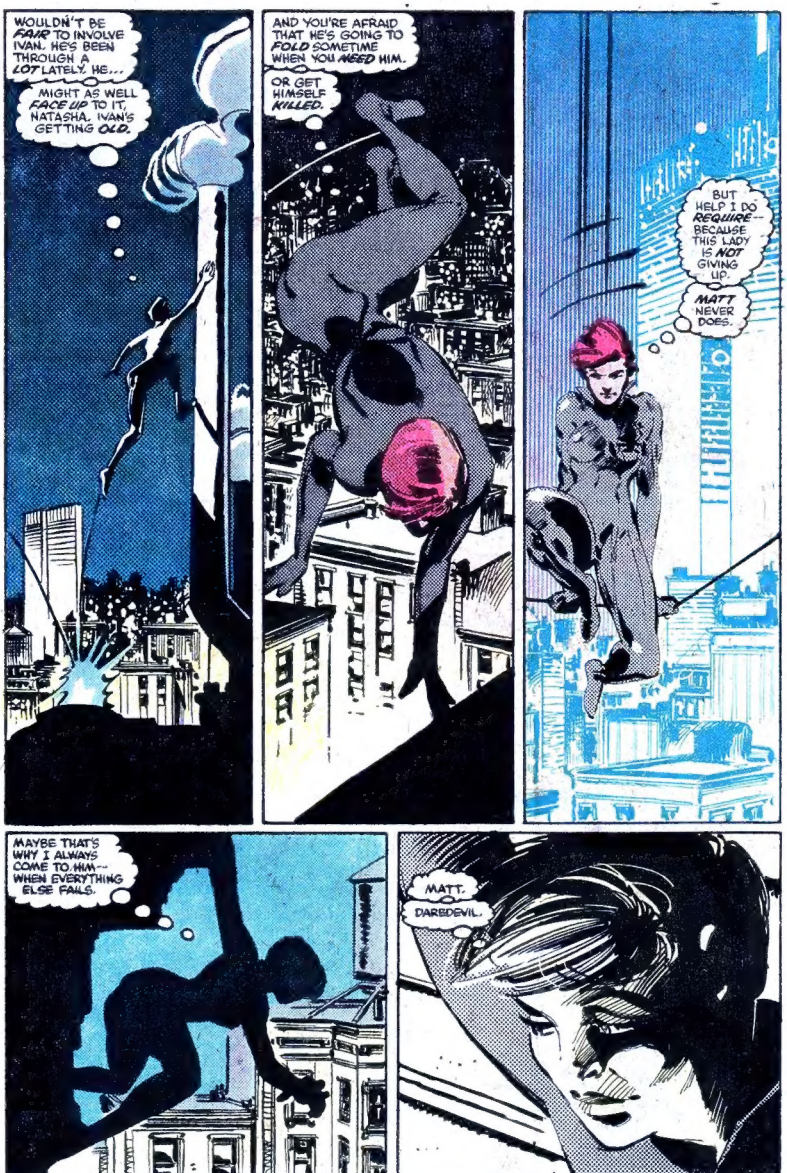
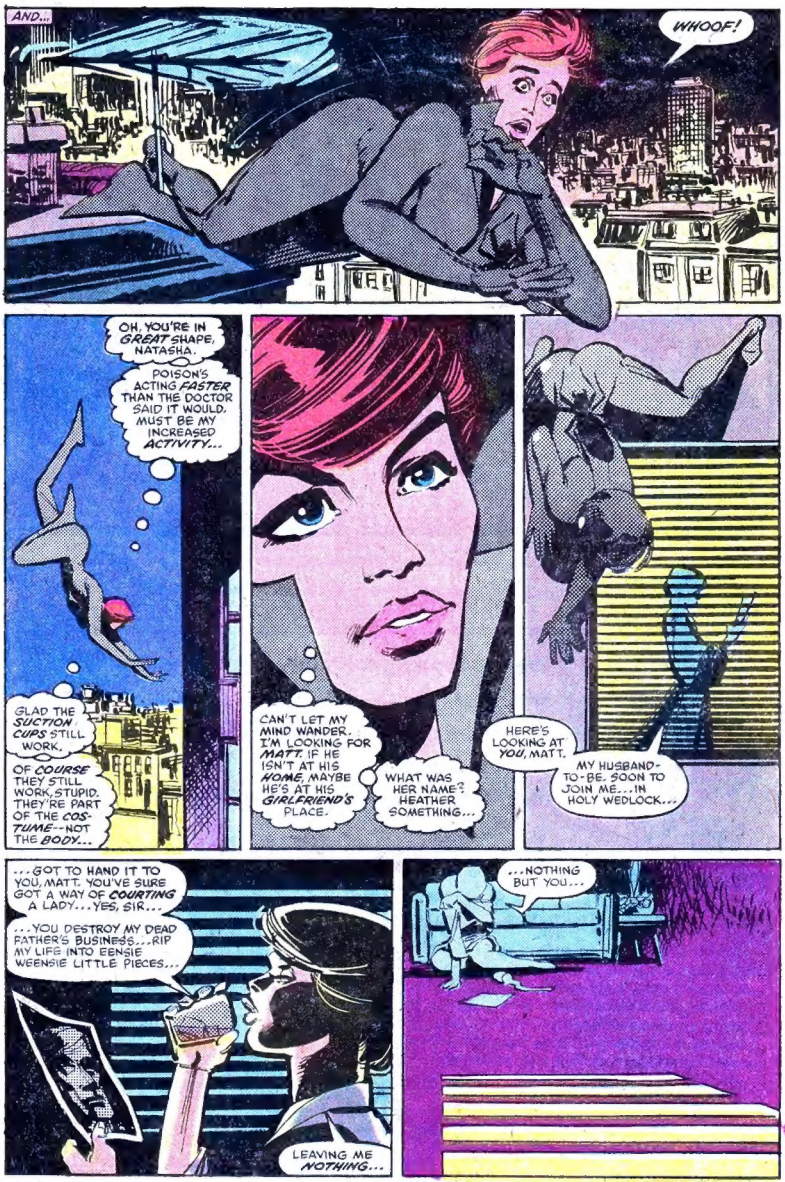

DON'T MAKE IT HARD ON YOURSELF, NATASHA.
WE'RE TRYING TO HELP.
DON'T DO ME ANY FAVORS.
NATASHA--YOU'RE ONE OF US.
YOU'VE BEEN POISONED.
YES. THE COLONEL TELLS ME IT'S HOPELESS.
WANTS ME TO LIE DOWN AND QUIETLY DIE.

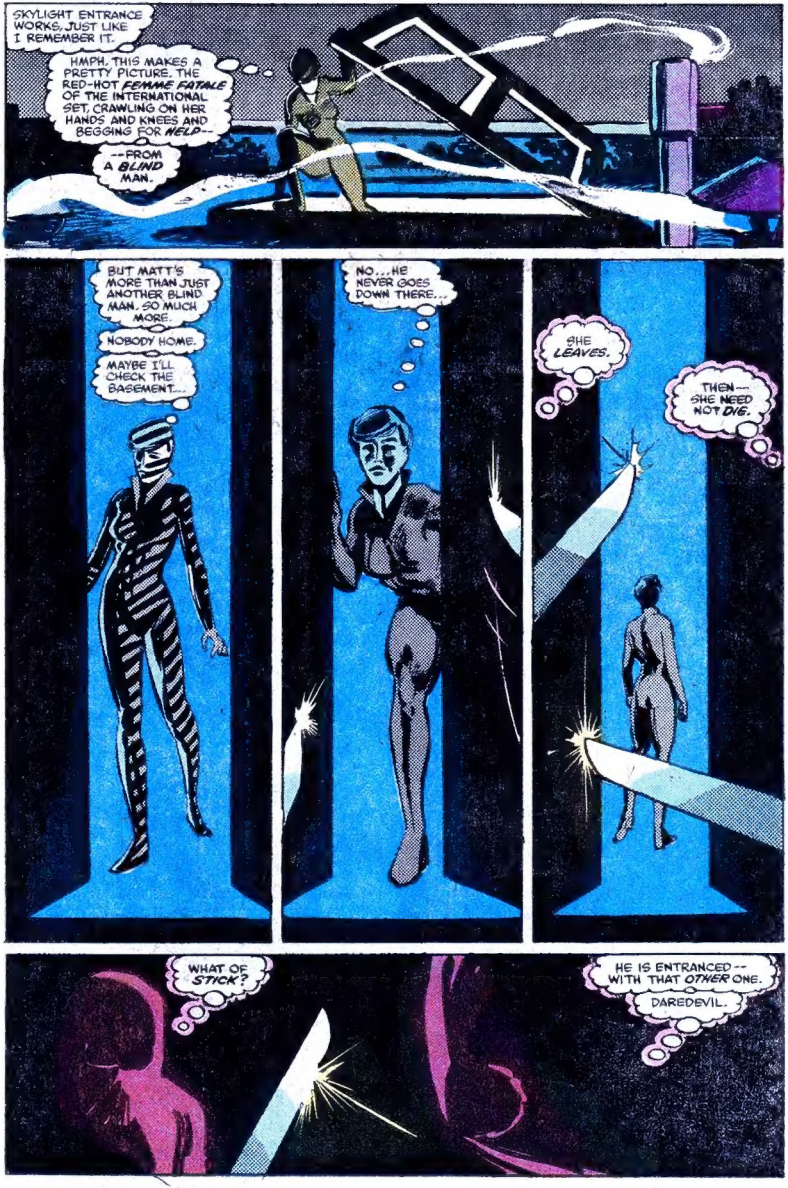
I'M NOT THE QUIET TYPE.
I'M NATASHA ROMANOVA--THE BLACK WIDOW--SUPERSPY EXTRA-ORDINAIRE--
I'LL FIND MY OWN WAY OUT OF THIS--
--THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
YOU'RE A FOOL.

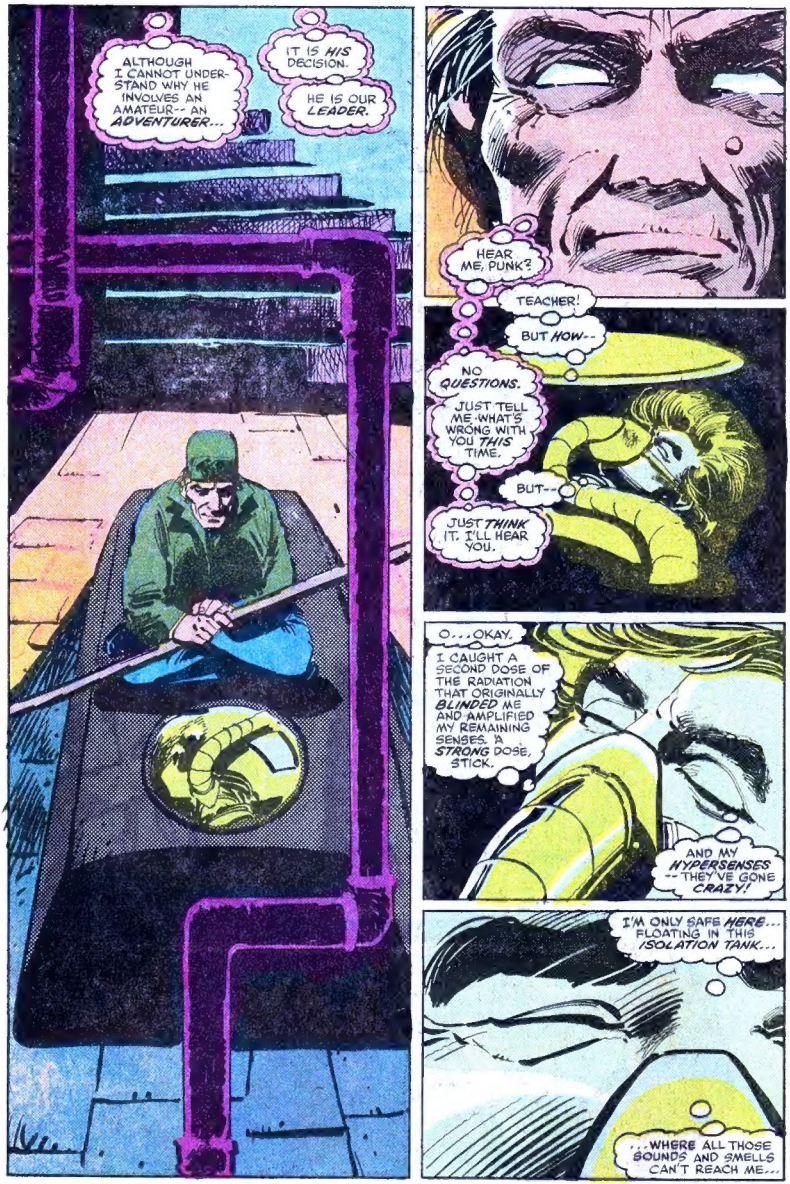

...PROBLEMS OF THREE LITTLE PEOPLE DON'T AMOUNT TO A HILL OF BEANS IN THIS CRAZY WORLD...
YA DO IT TO ME EVERY TIME, BOGEY...
IVAN...
'TASHA!
WHA'?
OOF!
WHAT'S WITH YOU, KID? WE'VE BEEN SIDE BY SIDE SINCE STALINGRAD--
--AND I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU TAKE A SPILL!
I WASN'T POISONED IN STALINGRAD.
POISONED...?
RAN UP AGAINST SOME NINJA A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO--STEPPED ON FOOT SPIKES THAT WERE COATED WITH SOMETHING THE DOCTORS CAN'T IDENTIFY.
ALL THEY KNOW FOR SURE IS THAT I'M GOING TO DIE--IN LESS THAN A WEEK.

I'M ON THE RUN, IVAN. FROM THE AGENCY.
THE COLONEL'S ORDERED ME TO SIT TIGHT, AND LET HIS BOYS INVESTIGATE THE SITUATION.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD.
YOU KNOW ME BETTER THAN THAT, IVAN.
IT'S A BIG AGENCY. THERE'S NO PLACE YOU CAN...
I'VE BEEN AN OUTLAW A TIME OR TWO. I CAN HANDLE IT.
YOU'RE ACTIN' CRAZY, 'TASHA--
--BUT YOU'RE THE BOSS. WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?
'TASHA?
I... THERE'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO DO, IVAN.
I LOVE YOU LIKE A FATHER-- BUT THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO.
LOOK-- THE AGENTS WILL CHECK HERE FOR ME NEXT. I HAVE TO GO.
YOU CAN'T DO IT ALONE, KID.
I DON'T INTEND TO.
'BYE.

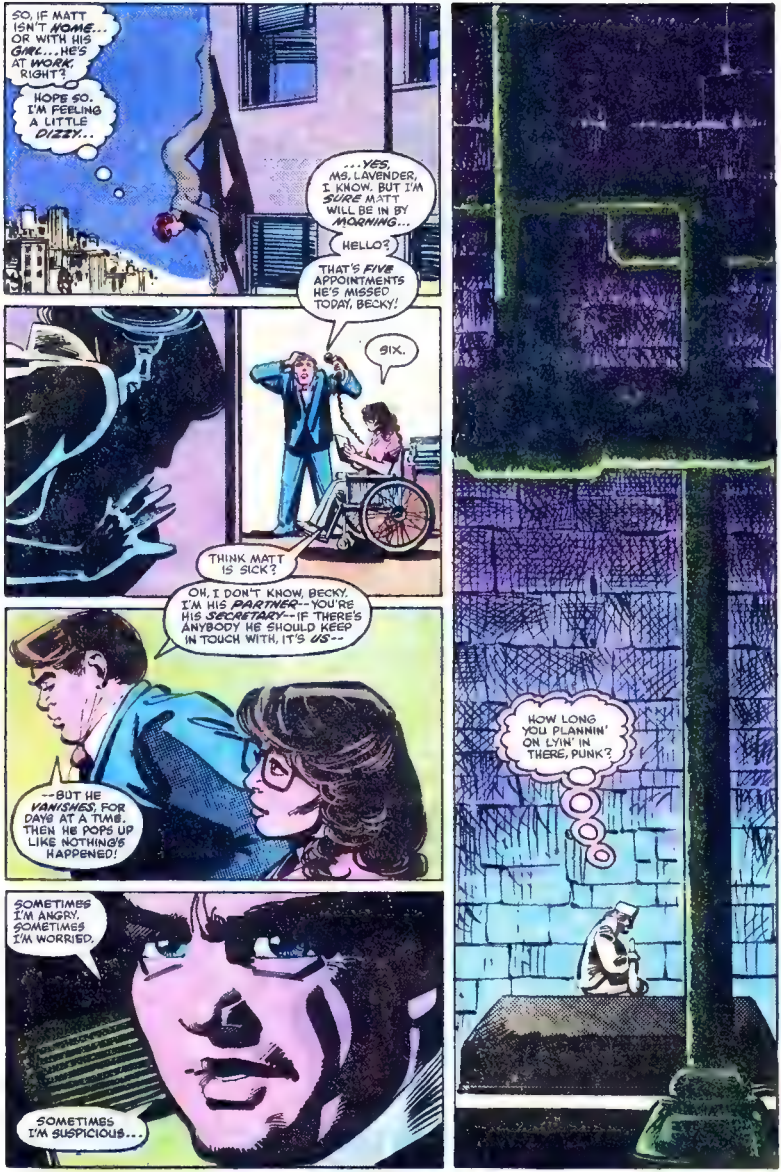

WOULDN'T BE FAIR TO INVOLVE IVAN. HE'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT LATELY. HE...
MIGHT AS WELL FACE UP TO IT, NATASHA. IVAN'S GETTING OLD.
AND YOU'RE AFRAID THAT HE'S GOING TO FOLD SOMETIME WHEN YOU NEED HIM.
OR GET HIMSELF KILLED.
BUT HELP I DO REQUIRE-- BECAUSE THIS LADY IS NOT GIVING UP.
MATT NEVER DOES.
MAYBE THAT'S WHY I ALWAYS COME TO HIM-- WHEN EVERYTHING ELSE FAILS.
MATT.
DAREDEVIL.


AND...
WHOOF!
OH, YOU'RE IN GREAT SHAPE, NATASHA.
POISON'S ACTING FASTER THAN THE DOCTOR SAID IT WOULD. MUST BE MY INCREASED ACTIVITY...
GLAD THE SUCTION CUPS STILL WORK.
OF COURSE THEY STILL WORK, STUPID. THEY'RE PART OF THE COSTUME--NOT THE BODY...
CAN'T LET MY MIND WANDER. I'M LOOKING FOR MATT. IF HE ISN'T AT HIS HOME, MAYBE HE'S AT HIS GIRLFRIEND'S PLACE.
WHAT WAS HER NAME? HEATHER SOMETHING...
HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU, MATT.
MY HUSBAND-TO-BE. SOON TO JOIN ME...IN HOLY WEDLOCK...
...GOT TO HAND IT TO YOU, MATT. YOU'VE SURE GOT A WAY OF COURTING A LADY...YES, SIR...
...YOU DESTROY MY DEAD FATHER'S BUSINESS...RIP MY LIFE INTO EENSIE WEENSIE LITTLE PIECES...
LEAVING ME NOTHING...
...NOTHING BUT YOU...

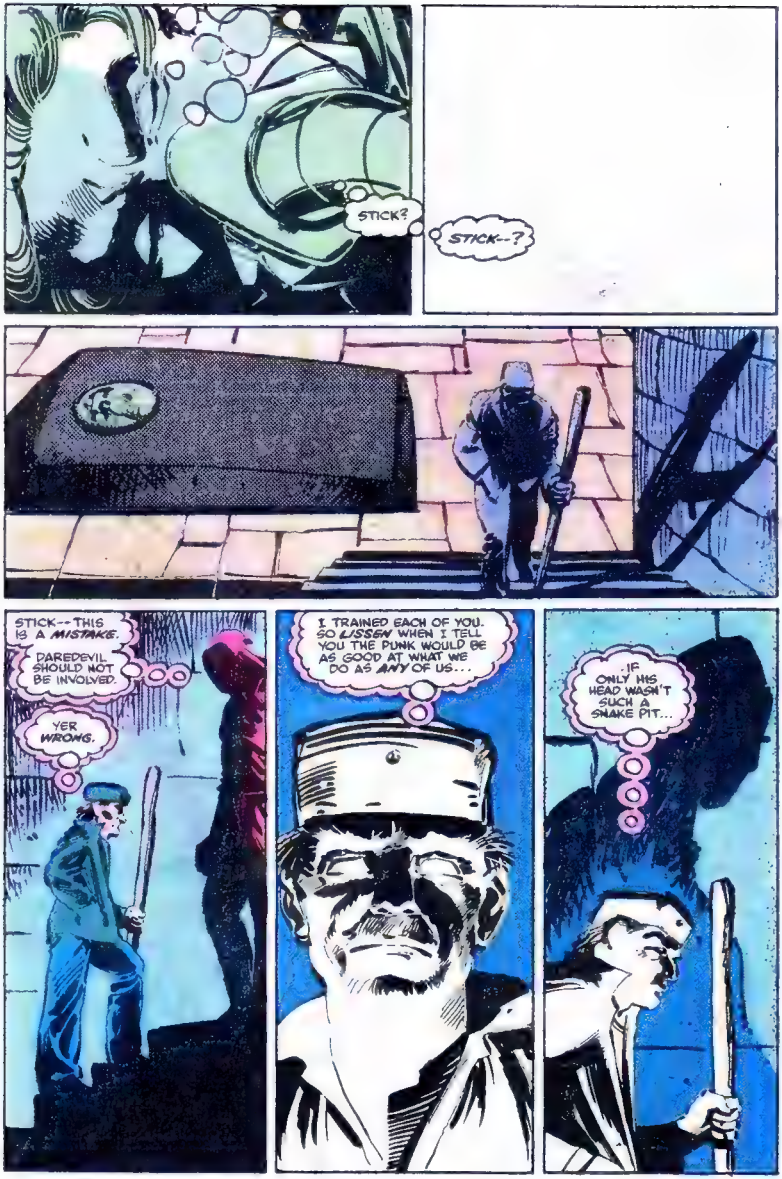

SKYLIGHT ENTRANCE WORKS. JUST LIKE I REMEMBER IT.
HMPH. THIS MAKES A PRETTY PICTURE. THE RED-HOT FEMME FATALE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SET, CRAWLING ON HER HANDS AND KNEES AND BEGGING FOR HELP--
--FROM A BLIND MAN.
BUT MATT'S MORE THAN JUST ANOTHER BLIND MAN. SO MUCH MORE.
NOBODY HOME.
MAYBE I'LL CHECK THE BASEMENT...
NO... HE NEVER GOES DOWN THERE...
SHE LEAVES.
THEN-- SHE NEED NOT DIG.
WHAT OF STICK?
HE IS ENTRANCED -- WITH THAT OTHER ONE.
DAREDEVIL.


ALTHOUGH I CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY HE INVOLVES AN AMATEUR-- AN ADVENTURER...
IT IS HIS DECISION.
HE IS OUR LEADER.
HEAR ME, PUNK?
TEACHER!
BUT HOW--
NO QUESTIONS.
JUST TELL ME WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU THIS TIME.
BUT--
JUST THINK IT. I'LL HEAR YOU.
O...OKAY. I CAUGHT A SECOND DOSE OF THE RADIATION THAT ORIGINALLY BLINDED ME AND AMPLIFIED MY REMAINING SENSES. A STRONG DOSE, STICK.
AND MY HYPERSENSES --THEY'VE GONE CRAZY!
I'M ONLY SAFE HERE... FLOATING IN THIS ISOLATION TANK...
...WHERE ALL THOSE SOUNDS AND SMELLS CAN'T REACH ME...

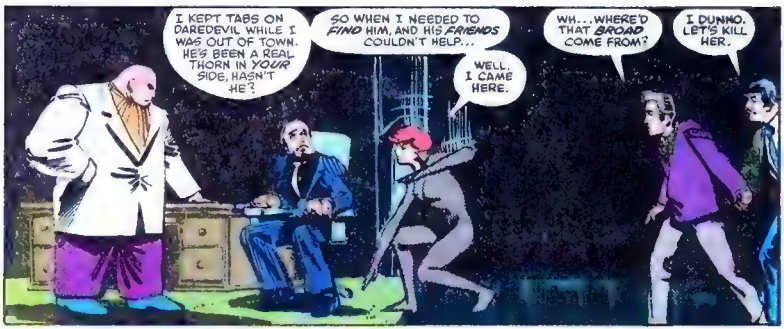
MEANWHILE...
YOUR NAME HAS BEEN A WHISPERED LEGEND SINCE THE DARK DAYS OF FEUDAL JAPAN. AS THE SAMURAI FEARED THE NINJA, SO THE NINJA FEARED YOU, KIRIGI.
IT IS SAID THAT YOU HAVE SERVED A SCORE OF JONIN SUCH AS MYSELF-- ACROSS A SPAN OF CENTURIES. IT IS SAID THAT NO MORTAL FORCE CAN STOP YOU, FOR. LONG...
IT IS SAID. AND IT IS SO.
YOU WERE BROKEN-- SEVERED-- BUT THE SOULS OF FOUR GENIN, TRANSFERRED TO YOU, BROUGHT YOU BACK FROM THE LAND OF THE DEAD.
YOU LIVE, KIRIGI. YOU LIVE AGAIN-- TO KILL AGAIN.
FIRST AMONG YOUR VICTIMS SHALL BE THIS ONE.
THE ONE CALLED STICK.
YOU WILL FIND HIM AT ONE OF SEVERAL PLACES HE HAS BEEN SEEN. A GRIMY SALOON HE FREQUENTS-- OR THE BROWN-STONE QUARTERS OF HIS STUDENT...
HE IS OUR DEADLIEST MOST CANNY FOE. HIS EXISTENCE IS AN OBSTACLE TO THE HOLY CAUSE OF THE HAND.
END IT.

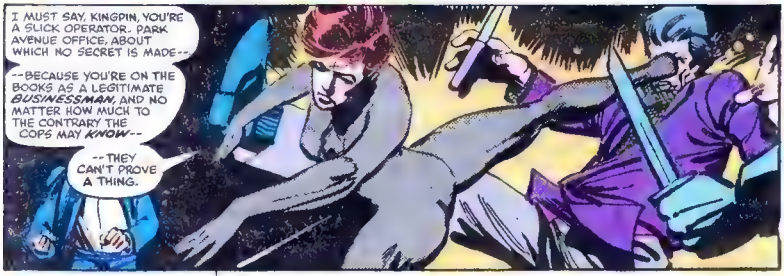

SO, IF MATT ISN'T HOME... OR WITH HIS GIRL... HE'S AT WORK, RIGHT?
HOPE SO. I'M FEELING A LITTLE DIZZY...
...YES, MS. LAVENDER, I KNOW. BUT I'M SURE MATT WILL BE IN BY MORNING...
HELLO?
THAT'S FIVE APPOINTMENTS HE'S MISSED TODAY, BECKY!
SIX.
THINK MATT IS SICK?
OH, I DON'T KNOW, BECKY. I'M HIS PARTNER--YOU'RE HIS SECRETARY--IF THERE'S ANYBODY HE SHOULD KEEP IN TOUCH WITH, IT'S US--
--BUT HE VANISHES, FOR DAYS AT A TIME. THEN HE POPS UP LIKE NOTHING'S HAPPENED!
SOMETIMES I'M ANGRY. SOMETIMES I'M WORRIED.
SOMETIMES I'M SUSPICIOUS...
HOW LONG YOU PLANNIN' ON LYIN' IN THERE, PUNK?

FOREVER. I DON'T KNOW.
IT'S SO LOUD OUT THERE YOU'VE NO IDEA HOW MUCH IT HURTS.
POOR BABY. YER GONNA MAKE ME CRY.
LISSEN, PUNK WE GOT TROUBLE.
OF COURSE WE DO! I'M--
SHADDUP.
THERE'S A NINJA OUTFIT CALLED THE HAND. YOU'VE MESSED WITH THEM ONCE OR TWICE.
TWICE. WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO DO WITH THEM?
THEY WANNA KILL ME. ME AND SOME OTHER FOLKS.
STICK--YOU CAME TO ME WHEN I FIRST ACQUIRED MY HYPER-SENSES...YOU TAUGHT ME TO CONTROL THEM.
BUT YOU NEVER EXPLAINED WHO YOU ARE...
THERE'S NO TIME FOR THAT. YOU GOTTA LEAVE THE TANK. NOW.
WHAT CAN I DO? I'M HELPLESS!
NO! YER STUPID.

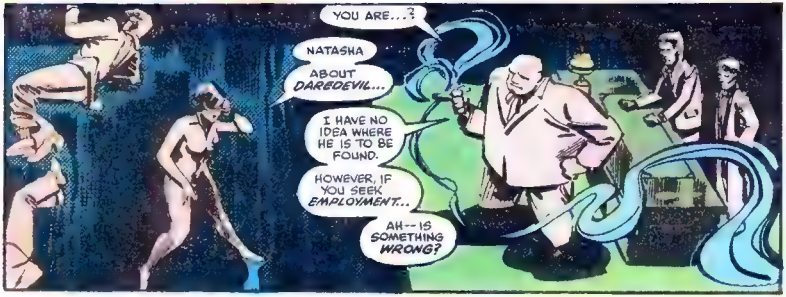

STICK?
STICK--?
STICK--THIS IS A MISTAKE. DAREDEVIL SHOULD NOT BE INVOLVED.
YER WRONG.
I TRAINED EACH OF YOU. SO LISSEN WHEN I TELL YOU THE PUNK WOULD BE AS GOOD AT WHAT WE DO AS ANY OF US...
...IF ONLY HIS HEAD WASN'T SUCH A SNAKE PIT...

MEANWHILE...
...EASY, KINGPIN. TAKE IT EASY.
NO ONE'S TRYING TO UNDERMINE YOU.
YOU'RE THE UNDISPUTED LEADER OF THE EAST COAST UNDERWORLD.
YOU RECEIVE A PERCENTAGE OF EVERY DOLLAR MADE BY MYSELF AND MY ASSOCIATES.
AND WE AREN'T QUESTIONING THAT. NOT IN PRINCIPLE.
IT'S THE AMOUNT WE--
UUURRGGHH
IDIOT!
BEFORE I GATHERED YOUR SCATTERED, WARRING FORCES, AND TAUGHT YOU TO WORK AS A CORPORATION, THERE WAS NO MONEY TO SPLIT.
AND NOW YOU SEEK TO DENY MY--
EXCUSE ME.


I KEPT TABS ON DAREDEVIL WHILE I WAS OUT OF TOWN. HE'S BEEN A REAL THORN IN YOUR SIDE, HASN'T HE?
SO WHEN I NEEDED TO FIND HIM, AND HIS FRIENDS COULDN'T HELP...
WELL, I CAME HERE.
WH...WHERE'D THAT BROAD COME FROM?
I DUNNO. LET'S KILL HER.


I MUST SAY, KINGPIN, YOU'RE A SLICK OPERATOR. PARK AVENUE OFFICE, ABOUT WHICH NO SECRET IS MADE--
--BECAUSE YOU'RE ON THE BOOKS AS A LEGITIMATE BUSINESSMAN, AND NO MATTER HOW MUCH TO THE CONTRARY THE COPS MAY KNOW--
--THEY CAN'T PROVE A THING.

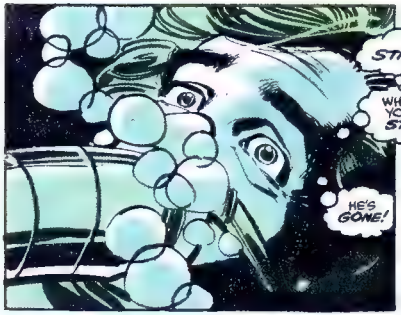
MUST BE FRUSTRATING FOR THEM.
BUT AT LEAST YOU'RE EASY TO FIND.

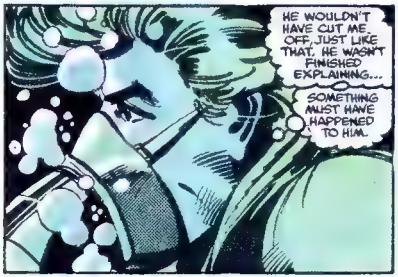

YOU ARE...?
NATASHA
ABOUT DAREDEVIL...
I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE HE IS TO BE FOUND.
HOWEVER, IF YOU SEEK EMPLOYMENT...
AH--IS SOMETHING WRONG?

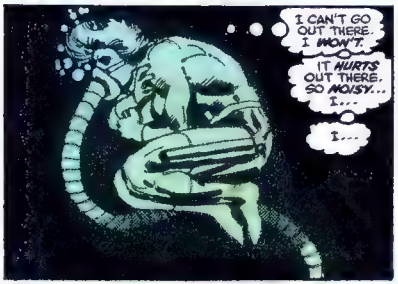
ELSEWHERE...
WE HAVE ELIMINATED THE OTHER POSSIBILITIES.
YOUR TARGET IS WITHIN, KIRIGI.
SHALL I ASSIST YOU--
OOF!
I MEANT NO INSULT...

YOU CAN LEAVE THE TANK ANY TIME YOU WANT TO, PUNK.
IT'S UP TO YOU.
STICK, I *TOLD* YOU, IT'S THE *RADIATION.* IT'S MADE EVERY SOUND SO *LOUD*-- EVERY SMELL, SO--
WAH.
THAT RADIATION'S WORE OFF BY NOW.
JUST LIKE IT DID BEFORE.
YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR *MIND,* STICK!
THE RADIATION THAT GAVE ME MY POWERS *NEVER* WORE OFF. THAT'S WHY I STILL *HAVE* MY HYPER-SENSES.
YOU DON'T KNOW FROM *NOTHIN'* PUNK.
WH...WHAT DO YOU *MEAN?*
ALL THAT HAPPENED TO YOU BACK THEN WAS THAT YOU GOT OPENED UP TO SENSES THAT *EVERYBODY'S* GOT, BUT DON'T USE. IT *AIN'T* THE RADIATION, NEVER WAS.
WHAT THE...

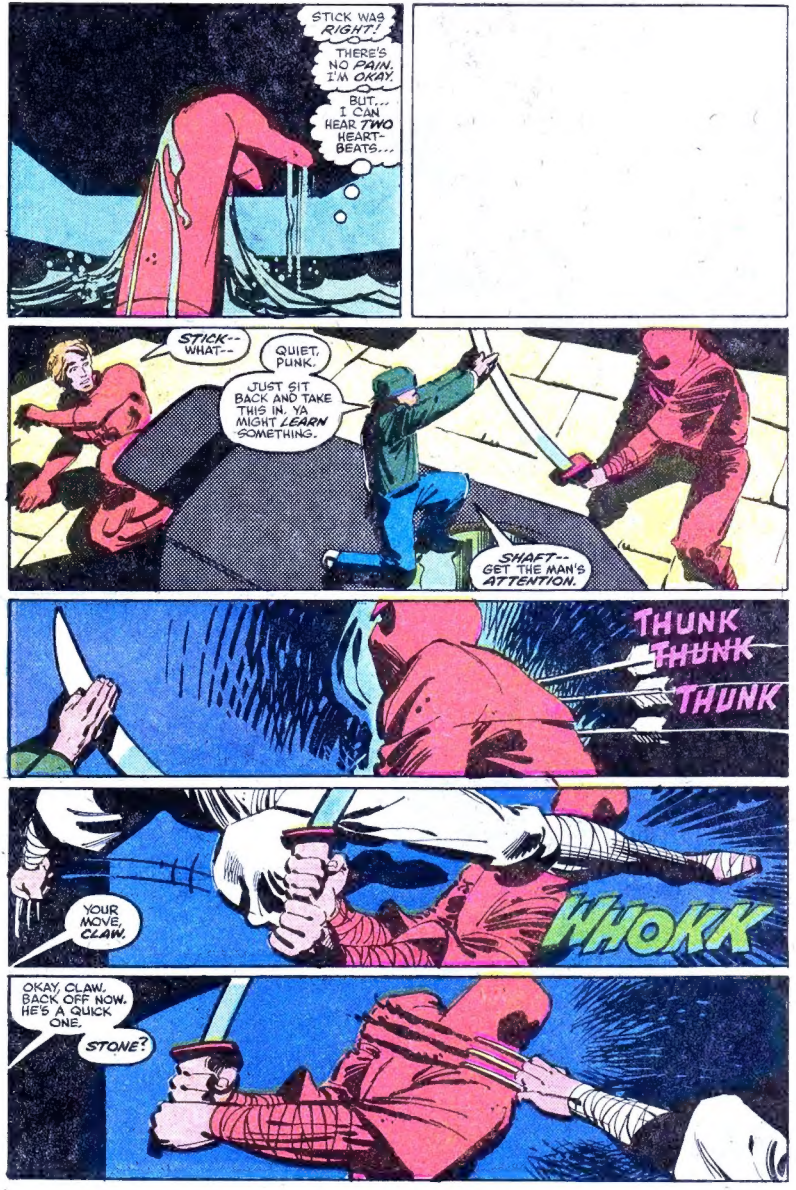
THERE'S NOTHING... WRONG WITH ME, KINGPIN. I'M...
I'M...
SHE'S DISSOLVING.
CURIOUS...
HOLD IT--
THE POISON! IT'S FINALLY...
MATT!
I NEED YOU MATT...


STICK!
WHERE'D YOU GO? STICK--?
HE'S GONE!


HE WOULDN'T HAVE CUT ME OFF, JUST LIKE THAT. HE WASN'T FINISHED EXPLAINING...
SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED TO HIM.


I CAN'T GO OUT THERE. I WON'T.
IT HURTS OUT THERE. SO NOISY... I...
I...

I'M SCARED.


STICK WAS RIGHT!
THERE'S NO PAIN. I'M OKAY.
BUT... I CAN HEAR TWO HEART-BEATS...
STICK-- WHAT--
QUIET, PUNK.
JUST SIT BACK AND TAKE THIS IN. YA MIGHT LEARN SOMETHING.
SHAFT-- GET THE MAN'S ATTENTION.
THUNK
THUNK
THUNK
YOUR MOVE, CLAW.
WHOKK
OKAY, CLAW. BACK OFF NOW. HE'S A QUICK ONE.
STONE?

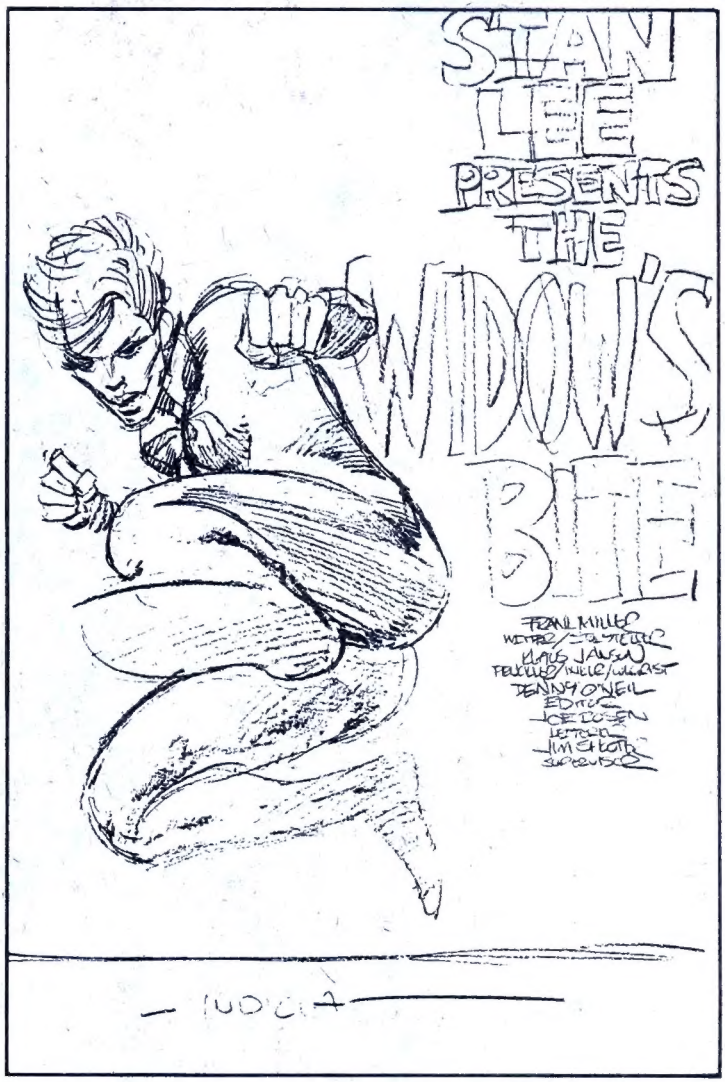
THAT'S IT...
KTANG
YOU'LL HAVE TO DESTROY THE BODY...
STICK... WHO... WHAT... I MEAN...
GUESS I'D BETTER EXPLAIN...
MATT--!
NOW WHAT?

MATT...
NEXT: SIEGE

We interrupt our regularly scheduled letter column for a few words of explanation. Many of you have written in, confused by the credits given in DAREDEVIL #185. Well, folks, times change. And artists grow.

After establishing his credentials as one of the boldest, most innovative embellishers ever to work in comics, KLAUS JANSON has come to try his able right hand at PENCILLING — and the last few issues have amply demonstrated his success. Working over designs furnished by writer Frank Miller, Klaus now brings his own vision to the total look and texture of DAREDEVIL.

For a peek over their shoulders, check out the original 8 ½ x 11" sketch by Frank that is reproduced below, and compare it to this issue's splash page. You'll see that for Klaus — and for DAREDEVIL — the fun has only started!



Our Letters page returns next issue.